



**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

Office of the Secretary

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DAVE MARTIN
Cabinet Secretary
BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

15 April 2013

To the employees of the New Mexico Environment Department,

A little over a week ago, Governor Susana Martinez formally asked me to take on a new role in her administration. I have been offered and accepted the position of new Cabinet Secretary-designee for the Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), filling the soon-to-be vacant position with the retirement of current Secretary John Bemis. Secretary Bemis will formally retire tomorrow after a two-year tenure at EMNRD. I will be moving into his position perhaps as early as the end of this week.

While all of this comes on short notice, I had been aware for some time that Secretary Bemis was set to retire this month. I was also aware that the administration had been conducting an extensive search for a new EMNRD Secretary. When the administration informally inquired about my interest in the position two months ago, I informed them that I would serve at the pleasure of the Governor. However, I did explain that I am very committed to the work of the New Mexico Environment Department and that it would be difficult to leave for many reasons.

Therefore, I'm truly departing with mixed emotions. Since I took over the NMED Secretary position, I have been driven by my desire to put my own, personal stamp on this Department. My goal has always been to protect our natural resources in balance with business and industry development. Our current team of leaders has done an outstanding job fulfilling this mission. I am proud of the group we have assembled. I am also very pleased with the current team of division directors, bureau chiefs and program managers. Likewise, I am overwhelmed by the dedication of all NMED employees. I have witnessed the hard work that all in this department do every single day. It is because of you all, that it is very difficult to leave.

I do take great pride and comfort in announcing the new Cabinet Secretary-designee who will continue the current direction of the department upon my departure. I am proud to announce that Governor Martinez has selected our General Counsel Ryan Flynn as the next NMED Cabinet Secretary-designee. I ask that you join me in congratulating Ryan on this appointment. Ryan Flynn has demonstrated over the past two years that he has the chops to lead this department into the future. He has taken on leadership roles in critical negotiations between our department and those we regulate. He has also demonstrated an outstanding ability to work with our sister agencies on the federal level, as evidenced by the recent settlement agreement between NMED, PNM and the EPA. Therefore, I fully endorse the Governor's selection and look forward to working with him during the many crossover projects that involve both NMED and EMNRD. I know that Ryan is passionate about protecting our environment and eager to put his own stamp on the department moving forward. I am sure you will hear directly from him in the near future.

In closing, I have considered it a privilege to serve as your Secretary. I consider it both an honor and my duty to serve New Mexico. This is my home. I'm not going far, so please know that you are welcome to visit me in the Wendall-Chino building. I am excited about the challenges the lie ahead for both NMED and EMNRD.

Thank you for all of your hard work.

Highest Regards—

F. David Martin
Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department